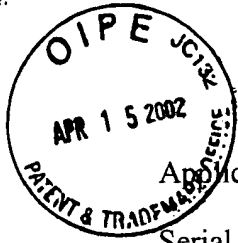


5/Pre A



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: VIKEN, James P.) Attorney Docket: 23,318-40
Serial No.: 10/026,137) Art Group Unit: 3745
Filing Date: December 18, 2001) Examiner:
Title: Complete Fluid Exchange System)
For Automatic Transmissions)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

APR 18 2002

04/17/2002 DTESSEM1 00000050 10026137

01 FC:103 396.00 OP
02 FC:102 168.00 OP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments prior to examination of this application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (amended) A method for exchanging a used fluid with a fresh fluid in a vehicle having a transmission connected to a fluid cooling circuit for conducting a circulated fluid therein in an operational direction, said used fluid initially being contained within said transmission and said fluid cooling circuit, at least a substantial portion of which is subsequently discharged into a receptacle, said fresh fluid initially being contained in a source container, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fluid exchange system having a first conduit for communicating fresh fluid to the transmission and a second conduit for communicating used fluid from the transmission, said fluid exchange system having a fluid flow alignment valve;

operating said fluid flow alignment valve to align a flow of fresh fluid relative to a flow of circulated fluid within the fluid circuit; and